

THE *Poultry and Egg* SITUATION

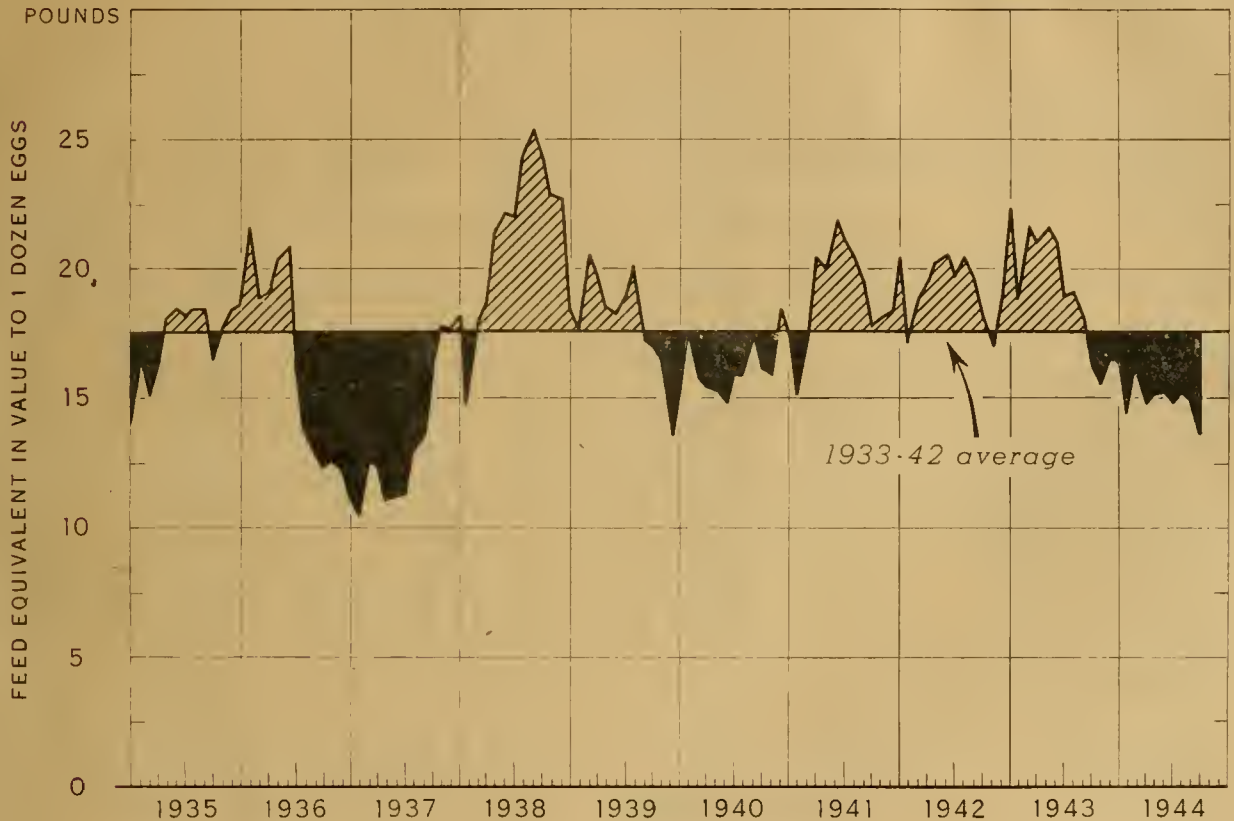
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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NOVEMBER 1944

EGG-FEED PRICE RATIO ADJUSTED FOR SEASONAL VARIATION, UNITED STATES, 1935-44



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 43977 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The egg-feed price ratio during 1941, 1942, and 1943 was very favorable for increased egg production. In 1944 it was below the long-time average. However, egg production increased in 1944, reflecting the large increase in the number of chickens raised in 1943. A 20-percent reduction occurred in the number of chickens raised in 1944. This will be reflected in decreased egg production in 1945.

Feed grain prices are expected to average slightly lower in 1945 than in 1944, but egg prices may also be slightly lower. Accordingly, egg-feed price relationships in 1945 may continue relatively unfavorable for egg production.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

I T E M	UNIT	AVERAGE			1943		1944		CURRENT MONTH AS PERCENT OF	
		PERIOD	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	YEAR EARLIER	AVER- AGE
Layers on farms, number	Million	1933-42	260.2	284.8	332.7	367.8	341.0	375.0	102	132
Number of eggs laid per hen	Number	1933-42	9.12	7.20	9.96	8.12	10.81	8.74	108	121
Total farm production of eggs	Mil. doz.	1933-42	198.2	171.6	276.1	248.9	292.9	273.2	110	159
Stocks, eggs, U. S.:										
Shell	1,000 case	1933-42	6059	4128	6018	3994	5427	2945	74	71
Frozen	1,000 case	1933-42	3517	3001	8165	6460	8868	7430	115	248
Total, shell and frozen	1,000 case	1933-42	9577	7128	14,183	10,454	14,295	10,375	99	146
Dried whole eggs	Mil. lb.	--	---	---	---	62.0	100.9	105.2	167	---
Apparent egg disappearance, civilian:										
Total shell egg equivalent	Mil. doz.	1933-42	254.2	248.3	290.6	297.1	295.8	326.7	110	132
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	--	---	---	20.1	23.2	26.0	---	124	---
Commercial hatchery operations:										
Eggs set	Million	--	---	---	82.3	56.0	37.1	44.1	79	---
Chicks hatched	Million	1933-42	14.6	15.0	41.1	39.5	21.6	26.3	67	175
Receipts:										
Poultry, dressed, four markets	Mil. lb.	1933-42	28.7	37.7	41.1	51.0	44.4	56.4	111	150
Poultry, live, Chicago	Mil. lb.	1933-42	5.9	6.5	8.2	6.4	5.9	6.4	100	98
Poultry, live, New York	Mil. lb.	1933-42	12.0	10.9	13.7	13.2	13.6	12.7	96	117
Poultry, live, Midwest, per plant . . .	1,000 lb.	1933-42	25.29	30.07	42.60	48.67	38.66	42.69	88	142
Powl (hens), live, Midwest, per plant .	1,000 lb.	1933-42	8.95	11.64	15.76	21.20	18.58	24.61	116	211
Young stock, live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1933-42	16.84	18.00	28.30	26.97	19.64	17.85	65	98
Stocks, poultry:										
Broilers	Mil. lb.	1933-42	11.3	13.1	9.5	12.4	9.8	10.4	84	79
Fryers	Mil. lb.	1933-42	5.6	9.7	9.5	15.6	14.4	17.5	112	180
Roasters	Mil. lb.	1933-42	8.4	17.0	14.8	28.5	27.3	39.1	137	230
Powls (hens)	Mil. lb.	1933-42	14.8	20.1	23.8	40.1	63.7	86.9	217	432
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	1933-42	6.9	6.1	9.8	14.6	22.3	41.6	285	682
Ducks	Mil. lb.	1933-42	8.4	7.7	3.6	3.4	9.4	8.1	238	105
Miscellaneous and unclassified	Mil. lb.	1933-42	16.0	18.9	15.4	25.7	41.1	43.2	168	229
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	1933-42	71.5	92.7	86.3	140.2	188.0	246.9	176	266
Prices received by farmers:										
Eggs, per dozen	Cent	1933-42	24.4	26.8	41.6	45.2	35.6	38.8	86	145
Eggs, parity price per dozen	Cent	1933-42	31.2	35.3	39.5	49.0	40.3	42.6	101	124
Eggs, percentage of parity	Percent	1933-42	78	78	105	105	88	89	85	117
Chickens, per pound	Cent	1933-42	14.8	14.4	25.2	24.6	23.7	23.8	97	165
Chickens, parity price per pound . . .	Cent	1933-42	14.9	15.0	18.7	18.8	19.4	19.4	103	129
Chickens, percentage of parity	Percent	1933-42	99	96	135	131	122	123	94	128
Turkeys, per pound	Cent	1933-42	17.0	17.8	29.1	29.9	31.1	31.8	106	179
Turkeys, parity price per pound	Cent	1933-42	19.1	19.2	23.6	23.8	24.5	24.5	103	128
Turkeys, percentage of parity	Percent	1933-42	89	93	123	128	127	130	103	140
All farm commodities (1910-14 = 100) ¹	Index no.	1933-42	112	111	193	194	192	194	100	175
Chickens and eggs (1910-14 = 100) ²	Index no.	1933-42	109	107	186	187	168	171	91	160
Wholesale prices, Chicago:										
Eggs, standards, per dozen ³	Cent	1933-42	23.7	25.5	42.9	43.7	37.2	38.9	89	153
Live heavy hens, per pound	Cent	1933-42	18.8	17.4	23.9	22.8	24.5	24.3	107	140
Live broilers, per pound	Cent	1933-42	19.9	20.2	25.8	25.6	25.0	---	97	126
Live fryers, per pound	Cent	1933-42	18.3	17.9	25.8	25.6	25.0	24.9	97	139
Live roasters, heavy, per pound . . .	Cent	1933-42	18.1	16.9	25.8	25.8	26.8	27.3	107	152
Wholesale prices, New York:										
Dressed broilers, 25-30 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1933-42	21.8	21.9	36.5	37.2	37.6	37.6	101	171
Dressed roasters, 48-54 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1933-42	23.8	21.7	36.5	37.2	37.5	37.5	101	173
Dressed fowls, 48-54 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1933-42	21.8	20.5	32.5	32.2	33.5	33.5	101	163
Cash farm income:										
Total marketings	Mil. dol.	1933-42	1098	1270	1985	2253	1953	2449	109	193
Poultry and eggs	Mil. dol.	1933-42	81	90	188	194	194	197	102	219
Price ratios:										
Chicago, broiler-feed	Lb. feed	1933-42	15.0	16.4	11.9	11.7	11.4	---	96	76
Chicago, light roaster-feed	Lb. feed	1933-42	13.8	14.1	11.9	11.7	11.4	11.2	96	79
Farm, egg-feed	Lb. feed	1933-42	18.1	21.5	19.3	20.9	15.9	17.5	84	81
Farm, chicken-feed	Lb. feed	1933-42	11.0	11.5	11.7	11.4	10.6	10.7	94	93
Farm, turkey-feed	Lb. feed	1937-42	12.8	14.6	13.5	13.8	13.9	14.3	104	98
Farm, egg-laying mash	Lb. feed	--	---	---	12.2	13.1	9.8	10.9	83	---
Laying mash, cost per cwt.	Dollar	--	---	---	8.41	3.45	3.62	3.57	107	---
Feed cost per cwt., farm poultry ratios	Dollar	1933-42	1.38	1.28	2.15	2.16	2.23	2.22	102	173
Wholesale food prices (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1933-42	102.8	101.4	132.7	132.9	131.7	131.7	99	130
Retail food prices (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1933-42	109.3	102.8	137.4	138.2	137.0	---	100	133
Prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes (1910-14 = 100)	Index no.	1933-42	131	131	164	165	170	170	103	130
Retail prices (BLS):										
Roasters, dressed, per pound	Cent	1933-42	32.2	31.2	44.5	44.1	44.6	---	100	139
Eggs, strictly fresh, per dozen . . .	Cent	1933-42	40.7	42.8	62.7	87.2	69.6	---	95	146
Nonagricultural employees compensa- tion (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1933-42	113.0	116.9	241.8	246.5	263.9	---	109	234

¹End of month. Frozen eggs converted to case equivalent.

²Adjusted for seasonal variation.

³Fresh firsts September and October 1933-42 average, Standards 44 lbs. September and October 1943 and 1944.

 THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

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SUMMARY

Tentative production goals, announced by War Food Administration November 15, suggest a total 1945 planting of about the same acreage as planted in 1944. The suggested goals for eggs and poultry would call for a farm production of eggs totaling 3,920 million dozen, a 16 percent drop from the indicated 1944 output; a reduction of 46 million head of chickens raised from the 746 million in 1944; but the same number of broilers and turkeys as in 1944. A January 1, 1945, goal of 420 million hens and pullets on farms was requested. However, since attainment of this end is impossible, another goal of 354 million hens and pullets is suggested for March 1, 1945. This desired March 1, 1945, number can be achieved only by culling 57 percent heavier than what might normally be expected between January 1 and March 1.

Marketings of chickens will be far short of demand during the next few months. Poultry meat supplies during the next 4 months (December 1944-March 1945) will be far below the previous year unless a much larger than usual culling of hens takes place. Demand will remain strong in view of continued high consumer incomes, smaller supplies of red meats, and especially large military takings. Accordingly, prices will be at ceiling levels.

Prices received by farmers for eggs probably will show usual seasonal declines for the next few months but may be below the same months of the previous year. Egg production is expected to be 8 to 10 percent less but declines in requirements for drying purposes will leave a record number of eggs available for civilian consumption.

Farm egg production during October totaled 273.2 million dozen, 10 percent above the previous record of October 1943. The mid-October average price received by farmers for eggs was 38.8 cents per dozen, 89 percent of parity and 6.4 cents below the average price of mid-October 1943. From mid-October to mid-November, wholesale quotations showed usual seasonal gains and prices of top-quality eggs were at ceiling levels. However, lower grades were below ceilings even though significant advances were recorded from mid-October to mid-November. The insufficient supplies of top-quality eggs shifted some of the demand to lower grades, so that the out-of-storage movement of shell eggs during October was the largest on record for that month. Stocks of shell eggs in cold storage on November 1 were the smallest for that date on record. Frozen egg stocks, however, on November 1 were the largest ever recorded and the combined total of shell and frozen egg stocks (shell egg equivalent) on November 1, 1944 was exceeded only in November 1, 1943.

-- November 21, 1944

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

November Chicken Marketings Far Below Last Year; Wholesale Quotations in Mid-November at Ceilings

All available indications point toward decreased supplies of chicken meat during the 4-week period ending November 18. Receipts of dressed poultry at the four markets have been less than last year and live poultry receipts at the Midwestern Primary Markets have shown significant decreases from the previous year.

Table 1.- Receipts of poultry at primary and principal markets
(Percentage change from previous year)

Week ending	Central Western Primary Markets			Four Market
	Live fowl	Live young stock	Total live poultry	receipts of Dressed Poultry
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
October 28	- 3.35	-41.47	-23.32	- 5.85
November 4	-21.05	-49.99	-35.72	- 2.36
November 11	-15.44	-47.79	-32.34	- 7.87
November 18	-33.39	-58.72	-46.11	-20.36

For the first time in 1944, the week ending October 28 witnessed a decline in farm marketings of fowl at the Central Western Primary Markets from that of the previous year. During the first half of 1944, marketings of total poultry meat, especially fowl, were larger than in the same period of 1943. A record number of chickens raised in 1943 -- 934 million head -- kept the slaughter of fowl in the first half of 1944 at a high level, since old hens were being removed from laying flocks. However, because the number of chickens raised in 1944 was only four-fifths of the quantity raised in 1943, smaller marketings of fowl are taking place during the last part of 1944 compared with 1943. Broiler production for the past few months has been far behind last year according to the Delaware Broiler Production Report, the only current source of information on the subject. This is a reflection of the marketing difficulties encountered in the summer months by broiler growers in the Del-Mar-Va peninsula, where almost one-half of broiler output takes place. Prices received by broiler growers in July and August declined appreciably. Furthermore, in recent months there has been a shortage of hatching eggs suitable for hatching of chicks for broiler raising.

Table 2.- Prices received by growers and number of broilers on hand,
Delaware, January 1943-November 1944 1/

Year and month	Price per pound received by growers	Broilers on hand		Year and month	Price per pound received by growers	Broilers on hand
	Cents				Cents	
1943		Thousands		1944		
Jan. ...	28.3	18,700		Jan. ...	28.0	18,700
Feb. ...	27.6	17,900		Feb. ...	28.3	16,500
Mar. ...	28.3	17,100		Mar. ...	28.5	17,800
Apr. ...	28.9	16,700		Apr. ...	28.4	18,600
May ...	28.6	17,000		May ...	30.1	20,500
June ...	28.6	16,600		June ...	29.5	17,500
July ...	28.6	16,000		July ...	27.1	15,900
Aug. ...	28.3	13,800		Aug. ...	23.6	14,800
Sept. ...	28.4	16,000		Sept. ...	24.4	12,000
Oct. ...	28.2	14,400		Oct. ...	27.5	9,500
Nov. ...	27.8	14,840		Nov. ...	28.5	7,700
Dec. ...	27.3	15,000		Dec. ...		

1/ Delaware Broiler Production Report.

The mid-October farm price of chicken was 23.8 cents, eight-tenths of a cent below the October 15, 1943, price but one-tenth above that of September 15, 1944. From mid-October to mid-November, wholesale quotations rose moderately and on November 15 wholesale quotations for most grades and weights of poultry were at ceiling levels. This is in contrast to the situation as it existed during the summer months when poultry prices were below ceilings. The price increases for poultry meats is a reflection of broad civilian demand, large military takings and smaller supplies of red meats.

Set-Aside on Turkeys Suspended

War Food Order 106, issued July 11, 1944, and as amended October 2, 1944, required that all turkeys marketed and processed in specified States and areas after July 7, 1944, must be offered for sale to the Quartermaster Corps. Effective November 6, the set-aside provision of this order was suspended, resulting in turkeys being available for sale into civilian channels.

The 1944 turkey crop is estimated at 35.7 million birds (about one-half billion pounds dressed weight), and is the largest on record. However, because of large military procurement of at least 60 million pounds, per capita civilian consumption probably will be about 3.2 pounds, the same as in 1943, but 23 percent above the 1935-39 average.

October Egg Output Continues at Record Levels

Egg production on farms during October 1944 totaled 273.2 million dozen (9.1 million cases). This exceeded the previous record of October 1943 by 10 percent, and was 59 percent above the 1933-42 average. This record output was the result of many favorable factors, among which were the largest number of layers on farms for any October, easier feed supplies, and very favorable weather. The average number of layers on farms was 375 million birds, 2 percent above the October 1943, and 32 percent above the 1933-42 average. The rate of lay per average layer continued far above any record previously reported for October and averaged 8.74 eggs per average layer, 8 percent above the average for October 1943.

Farm Egg Prices Rise Seasonally; Wholesale Prices of Top Grades at Ceiling Levels

The average price received by farmers for eggs on October 15, 1944, was 38.8 cents per dozen, 3.3 cents above the September 15 price, a usual seasonal gain, and was 89 percent of parity. Since mid-October, wholesale prices of top-quality eggs have shown permitted gains under OPA ceilings. U. S. Extras Nos. 1 and 2 Large at New York advanced 2 cents over October 15 to November 15 and at 52.8 cents were at ceiling levels. Lower grades, however, were below ceilings even though they showed significant advances from mid-October to mid-November. Current receipts at Chicago on October 15 were quoted at 36-38.5 cents, which was 5 to 8 cents below the ceiling, but by November 15 had climbed to 41-45 cents per dozen and were 1 to 5 cents below ceiling. . . .

THE EGG SITUATION

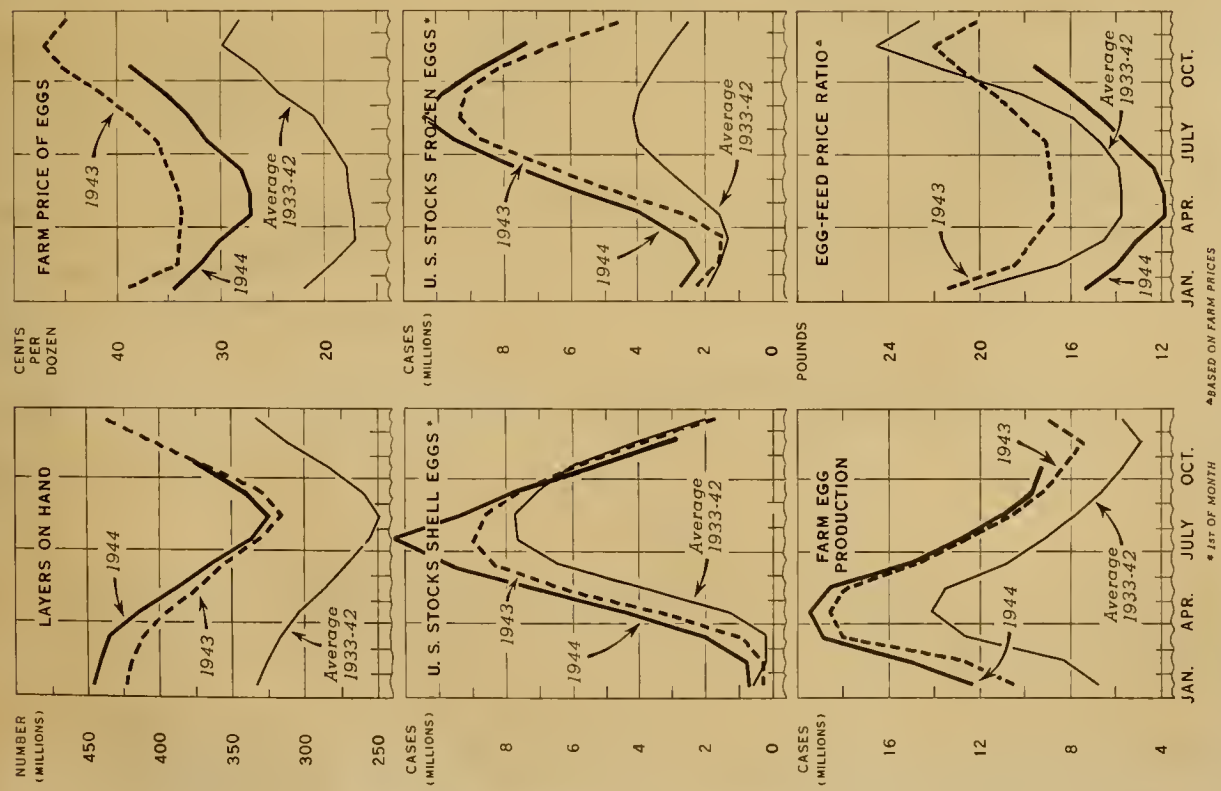


FIGURE 1

THE POULTRY SITUATION

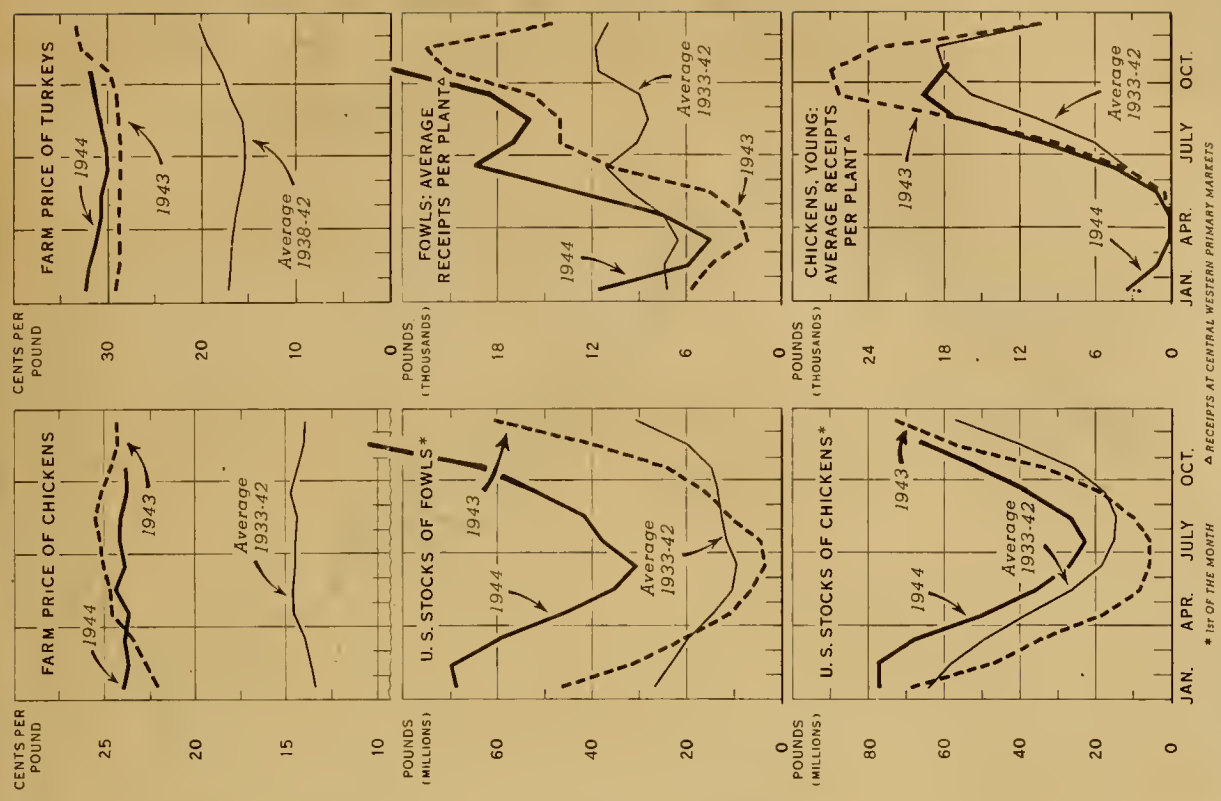
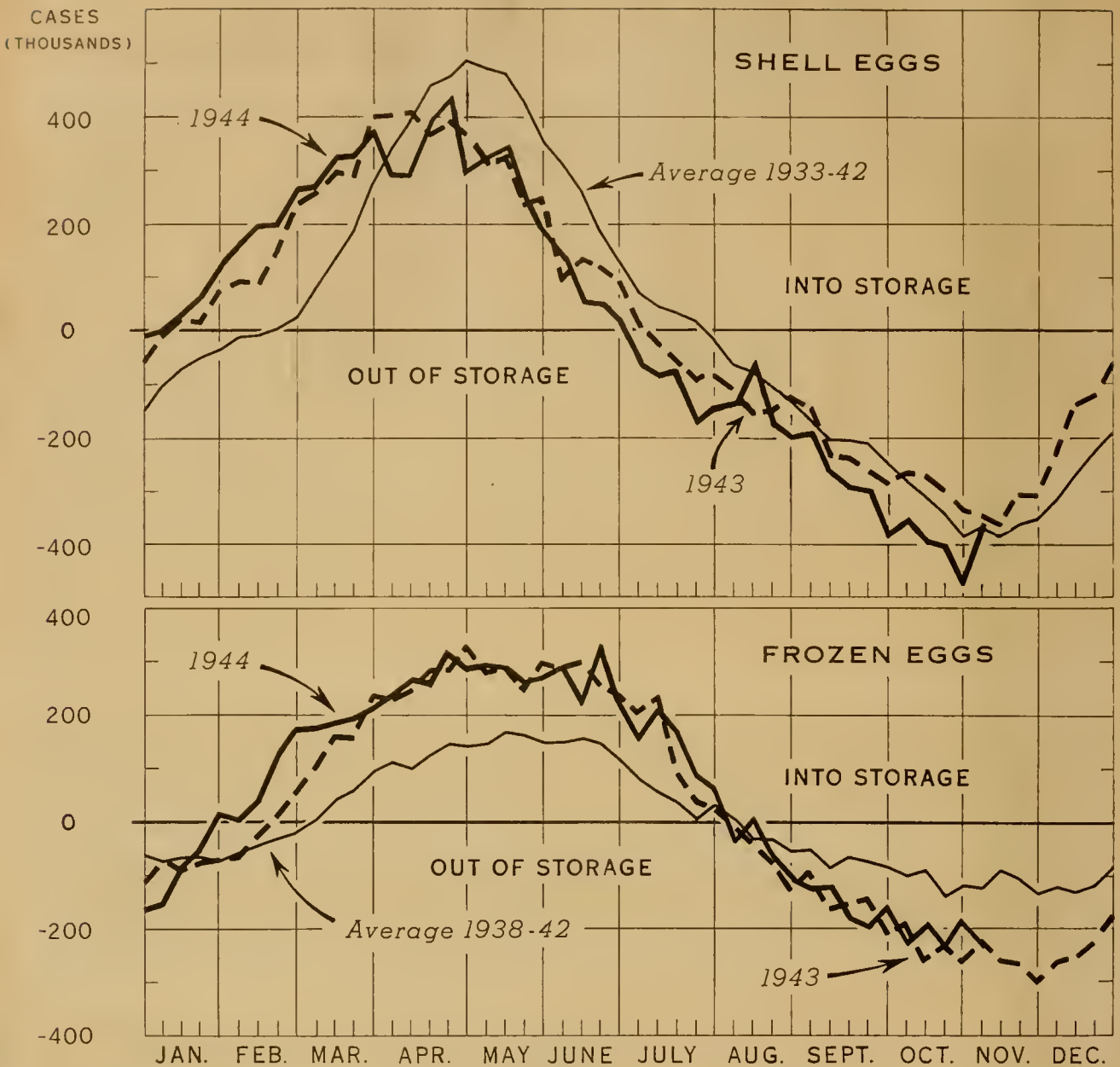


FIGURE 2

EGGS: NET STORAGE MOVEMENT AT 35 MARKETS, UNITED STATES



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FIGURE 3.

Record large withdrawals of shell eggs from cold storage occurred in September and October. November 1 holdings totaled 2.9 million cases, a new low for that date. The large out-of-storage movement reflected a strong consumer demand and seasonally small supplies of fresh eggs.

The out-of-storage movement of frozen eggs since July has been large. Holdings on November 1, however, were the largest on record for that date - 279 million pounds (7.4 million case shell egg equivalent). The carry-over of frozen eggs on January 1, 1945 probably will be greater than in any previous year because of reduced requirements for dehydrating purposes this fall compared with the last 3 years.

Continued high consumer incomes were primarily responsible for the strong demand for fresh shell eggs. With a seasonal decline in production, many market reports indicated that the demand for eggs of better qualities exceeded available supplies in mid-November. Civilian disappearance during October appeared to be at a record level for that month. Because the supplies of top-quality eggs were insufficient to satisfy the demand, quotations for the lower grades rose significantly.

The farm price of eggs in mid-October was 6.4 cents below that of October 15, 1943, although wholesale and retail prices of most grades of shell egg were at or near ceiling levels. This wide disparity between the October 15, 1944, and the October 15, 1943, farm prices is a result of a combination of two factors: Retail ceiling prices for most grades of eggs were 2 to 3 cents lower in 1944 than in the previous year. Also, the spread between farm and retail price has been much wider this year than for any recent year. For example, in September the spread between the Bureau of Labor Statistics retail price and the average farm price was 24.1 cents, and exceeded any spread ever reported for that month.

Frozen Egg Stocks Largest on Record

November 1 stocks of shell eggs in cold storage totaled 2,945,000 cases, a decrease of 2.5 million cases from October 1. The net out-movement of shell eggs was the largest October withdrawal on record and stocks of shell eggs on November 1 were the lowest ever reported for that date. Of the 2,945,000 cases of shell eggs, 857,000 cases were Government-owned. The unprecedented withdrawal of shell eggs was probably the result of strong consumer demand for shell eggs which was not satisfied by current production.

Frozen egg stocks on November 1 were reported at 279 million pounds (7,430,000 cases shell egg equivalent), a record for that date and 15 percent above the previous record of November 1, 1943. Although the out-movement of frozen egg during October was above normal, it was about the same as in October of 1942.

Total stocks of frozen and shell eggs on November 1, with extremely large frozen egg holdings, were equivalent to 10,375,000 cases and were exceeded only by the holdings of November 1, 1943.

Table 3.- Cold storage holdings of egg products: Specified dates

Egg products	: Nov. 1 average: : 1935-39	: Nov. 1, 1943 : total holdings: : 1/	: Nov. 1, 1944 : total holdings:	: Nov. 1, 1944, : non-Government- : owned holdings
	: 1,000 cases	: 1,000 cases	: 1,000 cases	: 1,000 cases
Shell	4,071	3,994	2,945	2,088
Frozen 2/	2,692	6,460	7,430	5,563
Dried 3/	---	6,299	10,518	2,582

1/ Includes WFA (formerly FSCG) holdings.

2/ Case equivalent converted on basis of 37.5 pounds to the case.

3/ Case equivalent converted on basis of 10 pounds to the case.

OUTLOOK

Chicken Supplies to be Short of Demand
For the Next Few Months

Marketings of chickens for the December 1944-March 1945 period will be smaller than in the same period of the previous year. Smaller hatchings during the late summer months of 1944 than in 1943, a decline in the number of chickens raised in 1944 from 1943, and a drop in broiler production will combine to bring this about. For the period July-October 1944, commercial hatchings of chicks were reported at 105 millions compared with 215 millions hatched in the same period of 1943. Most hatchings at this period of the year are for meat production and accordingly this source of supply of chicken meat during the next few months will be less than during the same period of last year. Also, the 20 percent decline of chickens raised in 1944 from 1943 will leave fewer hens to be withdrawn from laying flocks than in the December 1943-March 1944 period, unless a much larger-than-usual culling of hens takes place. Sales of broilers in the next 4 months probably will be at least one-fifth below the comparable period last year.

Partly offsetting the prospective decline of marketings of poultry meat will be the heaviest cold storage stocks on record. On November 1, stocks of poultry meat were reported at 247 million pounds, almost double the 1939-43 average and over 100 million pounds above November 1, 1943. However, a fairly large proportion of these stocks were held by Government agencies and it is believed that total stocks available for commercial purposes were not much above average.

The strong demand for chicken meat is expected to continue, as a result of continued favorable consumer incomes and somewhat smaller supplies of red meats. Furthermore, military requirements are large. Over-all demand for chickens will exceed supplies at ceiling prices.

Civilian Egg Supplies Larger Than
Last Year; Prices Probably Will
Show Usual Seasonal Declines

Egg production for the next few months (December 1944-March 1945) probably will average about 8 to 10 percent less than in the December 1943-March 1944 period. Although holdings of shell eggs on November 1 were the lowest in 29 years, frozen-egg stocks are the largest on record and total stocks are only slightly below last year's record.

Despite a reduction in over-all supplies, the supplies available for civilians probably will be greater in December-March than a year earlier, as a result of declines in the requirement for dehydrating purposes. As of November 18, WFA had contracted for delivery of dried egg totaling 8.4 million pounds during December and January. As of the same date in 1943, WFA had outstanding contracts totaling 54.5 million pounds during December 1943 and January 1944. This decrease in eggs for dehydrating purposes will make available about 140 million dozen eggs more than last year in December and January, unless there is a distinct change in Government dried egg procurement.

Table 4.- Purchases of dried whole eggs by the War Food Administration through November 18, 1944, by months scheduled for delivery

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1942	11.4	12.9	13.1	13.4	18.3	17.5	18.5	19.2	19.2	22.0	25.3	15.8	206.6
1943	7.2	20.1	12.6	21.4	17.2	10.9	19.6	19.9	16.1	16.4	20.1	28.1	209.6
1944	26.4	27.0	19.0	28.0	27.0	26.1	24.8	31.5	24.2	20.4	12.8	6.2	273.4
1945	2.2												

Prices of eggs probably will be somewhat lower in the December 1944-March 1945 period than a year earlier, when prices received by farmers for eggs averaged 35.4 cents per dozen, 100 percent of parity. Demand for eggs, excluding that for drying purposes, is expected to remain strong and civilian consumption probably will be at record levels for the next few months compared with corresponding months of other years.

OUTLOOK FOR 1945, BY REGIONS

BACKGROUND.- Egg production for 1945 is expected to decline 8 to 12 percent from the 1944 record output. On November 1, 1944, the number of potential layers on farms (hens and pullets of laying age plus pullets not of laying age), 527.5 million, was 90.4 percent of the number on farms on the same date in 1943. This drop, however, was not uniform among regions. On a regional basis, the November 1, 1944, number of potential layers as a percentage of the previous year was as follows:

North Atlantic	- 86.6 percent	South Atlantic	- 93.0 percent
East North Central	- 94.7 "	South Central	- 90.7 "
West North Central	- 89.2 "	Western	- 87.5 "

North Atlantic States - Heavier Declines in Egg Production Than in Other Areas Expected

The North Atlantic region probably will show greater declines percentage-wise in egg production in 1945 than other areas. Egg production in the North Atlantic States is to a great extent a commercial flock affair and is more influenced by price changes than production in general farm flocks. Prices received by farmers for eggs in the first quarter of 1945 are expected to be lower than in the first quarter of 1944. Accordingly, substantial declines in egg production will probably occur.

East North Central States - Egg Production in 1945 Slightly Below 1944

Egg production in 1945 in the East North Central States may show only a slight drop from that of 1944. This group of States had the second smallest regional increase in number of layers from the 1935-39 average. On

January 1, 1944, the number of layers was 126 percent of the January 1 (1935-39 average). Indications are that as of November 1, 1944, the number of potential layers on farms in this area was only 5.3 percent below that of November 1, 1943.

Civilian demand for shell eggs in this area has been fairly strong because of increases of population with the expansion of wartime industry in the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. Unless there is a distinct shift in the population, it is expected that this increased demand may remain for the coming year.

West North Central States - Large Decline in
Demand for Dehydrating Purposes Probable

War Food Administration purchased for delivery during 1944 to September about 105 million pounds of dried egg produced in the West North Central States. This is equivalent to 10.5 million cases of shell eggs, or approximately one-fifth of the total output in this region. With significant declines taking place in dried egg requirements, the need for eggs for dehydrating purposes probably will be very small.

Egg production in 1945 probably will decline more than average in this region. The number of potential layers on farms on November 1, 1944, was 157 million birds compared with 176 million birds on the same date of 1943. This is a decrease of 11 percent.

South Atlantic States - Egg Production May
Show Little Change in 1945 From 1944;
Broiler Production Up

Egg production in the South Atlantic region is generally a farm flock affair and, therefore, not very susceptible to change. Furthermore, this has been a deficit producing area so that most of the local production is utilized in the territory. As of November 1, 1944, potential layers on farms were only 7 percent below those of November 1, 1943. With the demand remaining strong, it is possible that declines in egg production in 1945 over 1944 may not be significant.

The Del-Mar-Va peninsula, the largest broiler producing territory, is located in the South Atlantic region and almost one-half of the broilers produced in the country come from this territory. Since this is a deficit feed producing area, ease in obtaining feed supplies is an important factor in determining broiler production. With the extremely favorable corn crop, the supply of the four important grain feeds for the coming market year is expected to be about as high per animal unit as the relatively large supply available in 1942 and 1943. Furthermore, returns to growers probably will be favorable in view of probable declines in supplies of red meats. This may result in increased broiler production in 1945 over 1944.

Western States - Farm Egg Prices May Show
Little Change in 1945 from 1944

The average price received by farmers for eggs in the Western region is not expected to decline much in 1945 from that of 1944, even though some declines in the national average probably will come about. The Western States have shown the smallest relative increase in egg production since 1940, and in 1944 production probably will be only about 30 percent above 1940 compared with a national increase of 42 percent. Prior to 1941 this territory exported eggs to other States. However, with increases of population during the wartime era, it has on occasions been an importing region.

As of November 1, 1944, the number of potential layers was 12-1/2 percent below that of November 1, 1943. The demand for shell eggs probably will remain very strong and, in view of the fact that very little dehydrating has taken place in this area, supply and demand factors may be fairly well equalized, so that prices probably will be above the national average.

THE 1945 POULTRY AND EGG GOALS

The War Food Administration on November 15 announced tentative national goals for 1945 with suggestions for State goals. Such national goals call for smaller plantings than the 1944 goals, but about the same as the 1944 crop acreage. In making the announcement, the War Food Administration indicated that a large total acreage is desired in order to allow for a margin of safety.

The 1945 goals for poultry and eggs, compared with the 1944 indicated production, call for a reduction of 16 percent in egg production, about the same quantity of turkeys and broilers, and a decline of 6 percent in the number of chickens raised. It also asked for a decrease of 18 percent in hens and pullets on farms January 1, 1945 from the number of January 1, 1944. Since it does not appear possible to reduce the number of hens in laying flocks to the desired level of January 1, 1945, a March 1, 1945 goal was also announced. The suggested goal for March 1, 1945 for hens and pullets on farms is 354 million layers, a decrease of 20 percent from March 1, 1944. To attain this March 1 goal, culling of about 57 percent in addition to what would be normally expected would have to take place.

In announcing the broiler goals it is suggested that even though civilian demand is likely to provide a satisfactory market for poultry meat, broiler producers should reexamine demand prospects from the time they begin a new crop. The War Food Administration also indicates that unless military demand for turkeys declines significantly in 1945 from 1944, at least the same turkey production as in 1944, 35.7 million birds, would be desirable. The goal for eggs, 3,920 million dozen, is based on the following requirements: 340 eggs per capita for civilians, military needs of 485 million dozen, hatching requirements of 176 million dozen, with no eggs for drying purposes. WFA stated that sufficient stocks of eggs in dried and frozen form are available to meet lend-lease requirements of dried egg in 1945. For the past

3 years, farm egg production has exceeded the goals. The percentage increases over the goals were as follows: In 1942, 5.4 percent; in 1943, 3.9 percent; and in 1944 the indicated production is 1.7 percent above the announced goal.

Table 5.- Goals and production, poultry and eggs,
United States, 1942-45

Product	Unit	1942		1943		1944		1945	
		Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Indi- cated	Goal	Percent- age 1945 goal is of 1944 Percent
Hens and pullets on farms Jan. 1	Thous.		426,226	455,337	487,837	540,812	515,031	420,000	82
Chickens raised	"	1/	1/	872,026	933,965	892,983	745,800	700,000	94
Broilers, commercial	"				251,649	201,392	213,000	213,000	100
Turkeys raised	"	37,002	33,110	38,699	32,970	32,041	35,666	35,666	100
Eggs, pro- duction on	Mil.								
farms	doz.	3,822	4,028	4,345	4,514	4,597	4,676	3,920	84

1/ Slaughter from farm production including broilers, expected goals, 3,420 million pounds live weight, and actual production, 3,142 million pounds live weight.

Table 6.- Chickens: Weighted annual average farm price per pound, United States and regions, 1924-43

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1924	24.8	19.7	17.2	23.2	17.5	19.9	19.4
1925	26.2	21.0	17.9	23.9	18.7	20.7	20.5
1926	27.7	22.5	19.3	25.5	20.6	22.2	22.3
1927	26.4	20.2	17.5	24.1	18.7	20.7	20.3
1928	26.8	21.9	19.2	24.3	19.5	21.6	21.5
1929	28.3	23.5	20.3	25.9	20.9	23.2	22.8
1930	24.2	18.4	15.5	22.4	17.2	20.1	18.4
1931	21.0	15.9	13.6	19.3	14.0	16.5	15.8
1932	16.8	11.6	9.5	14.4	10.1	12.7	11.8
1933	13.9	9.3	7.4	12.0	8.1	10.9	9.5
1934	15.2	11.4	9.3	13.9	9.5	11.5	11.3
1935	18.1	15.1	13.1	16.2	12.8	14.9	14.9
1936	19.3	15.9	13.6	17.6	14.1	15.9	15.8
1937	18.9	16.4	14.5	17.4	13.4	15.3	15.9
1938	19.1	15.5	12.8	17.2	13.4	16.1	15.4
1939	17.2	13.5	11.0	15.8	12.1	14.4	13.5
1940	16.6	13.4	11.2	15.4	11.7	14.0	13.3
1941	19.0	16.3	13.8	17.3	14.4	16.6	15.8
1942	22.3	19.4	17.1	20.3	17.6	20.6	18.9
1943	28.9	24.7	21.7	27.3	23.5	26.1	24.4

Table 7.- Eggs: Weighted annual average farm price per dozen, United States, and regions, 1924-43

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1924	34.6	26.9	23.4	28.5	23.0	23.3	26.7
1925	33.9	29.9	26.5	32.2	27.2	33.6	30.4
1926	37.5	28.7	25.4	31.8	26.2	29.6	28.9
1927	34.3	24.6	21.5	28.0	21.8	26.6	25.1
1928	36.9	28.4	25.1	29.3	24.8	27.8	28.1
1929	39.4	29.9	25.9	32.1	26.1	30.9	29.3
1930	33.1	23.0	19.4	26.7	21.4	25.4	23.7
1931	26.1	17.1	14.0	20.4	14.6	18.7	17.6
1932	21.6	13.5	11.0	15.6	10.9	16.0	14.2
1933	20.7	12.9	10.5	15.7	11.1	16.1	13.8
1934	23.9	16.2	13.7	19.0	14.3	18.0	17.0
1935	29.6	22.8	20.8	23.6	20.5	24.2	23.4
1936	28.4	21.0	18.5	23.2	19.2	22.3	21.8
1937	27.5	20.3	17.9	22.7	18.3	22.5	21.3
1938	27.4	19.4	16.6	21.8	17.0	22.6	20.3
1939	24.4	16.2	13.4	19.4	15.1	20.2	17.4
1940	24.9	17.1	14.2	20.1	15.5	19.3	18.0
1941	30.1	22.5	20.3	24.7	21.0	26.0	23.5
1942	37.1	29.0	27.3	29.9	27.2	32.3	29.9
1943	45.4	36.2	34.2	37.5	34.3	40.5	37.0

Table 8.- Hens and Pullets on Farms January 1, United States, by regions 1925-44

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand
1925	41,754	86,905	116,779	38,511	74,058	32,510	390,517
1926	41,699	87,247	118,357	37,801	74,630	34,115	393,849
1927	42,023	89,993	121,957	40,172	82,991	37,739	414,875
1928	43,175	88,509	121,667	42,529	88,411	42,848	427,139
1929	41,111	83,224	119,102	38,508	80,594	41,235	403,774
1930	43,279	85,642	126,346	39,092	82,860	43,232	420,451
1931	40,513	84,458	118,889	36,955	77,753	43,208	401,776
1932	40,601	81,888	111,701	36,640	76,472	38,524	385,826
1933	41,736	83,331	111,727	37,583	80,159	36,157	390,743
1934	42,180	84,742	112,256	35,139	74,568	36,456	385,341
1935	40,621	77,447	95,676	34,202	69,121	33,340	350,407
1936	42,426	81,334	97,893	34,956	71,069	34,941	362,619
1937	46,937	83,540	97,886	37,300	77,164	36,927	379,754
1938	43,331	75,846	90,992	34,654	73,183	34,903	352,964
1939	46,239	78,149	103,085	36,612	78,494	33,562	376,141
1940	48,996	80,299	108,482	37,586	81,117	36,175	392,655
1941	47,436	78,729	106,751	36,831	76,860	34,765	381,372
1942	50,821	84,661	122,872	40,595	89,297	37,980	426,226
1943	58,175	94,257	145,077	44,965	104,116	41,247	487,837
1944/	61,137	99,730	152,990	48,521	109,515	43,138	515,031

1/. Preliminary.

Table 9.- Eggs: Farm production, United States, by regions 1925-43

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million
1925	4,504	7,898	9,794	3,238	5,863	3,672	34,969
1926	4,545	8,306	10,446	3,345	6,486	4,120	37,248
1927	4,634	8,416	10,566	3,606	7,080	4,325	38,627
1928	4,657	8,230	10,595	3,525	6,882	4,770	38,659
1929	4,687	8,058	10,509	3,256	6,556	4,855	37,921
1930	4,864	8,325	11,154	3,286	6,386	5,052	39,067
1931	4,752	8,428	10,708	3,205	6,289	5,150	38,532
1932	4,768	8,058	9,456	3,197	6,275	4,544	36,298
1933	4,837	7,890	9,495	3,102	5,999	4,191	35,814
1934	4,876	7,820	8,914	2,935	5,575	4,309	34,429
1935	4,999	7,805	8,295	2,918	5,563	4,029	33,609
1936	5,250	7,989	8,087	3,039	5,765	4,404	34,534
1937	5,879	8,575	8,792	3,302	6,321	4,695	37,564
1938	5,714	8,274	9,177	3,290	6,619	4,282	37,356
1939	6,025	8,514	10,118	3,326	6,746	4,114	38,843
1940	6,229	8,593	10,415	3,443	6,618	4,287	39,585
1941	6,477	9,059	11,273	3,460	7,131	4,365	41,765
1942	7,145	10,093	13,904	3,938	8,474	4,777	48,331
1943	7,738	11,037	16,016	4,329	9,750	5,245	54,165